Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Spencer Bachus Chairman Committee on Financial Services 2129 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bachus:

Like us, we are sure you were deeply disturbed to learn that JPMorgan Chase violated the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act by wrongly foreclosing on 14 military families and overcharging more than 4,000 active-duty military members on their mortgages. As Chairman of the Committee with jurisdiction over all issues pertaining to banking and housing, we urge you to use all the tools at your disposal to fully investigate the actions of financial institutions in dealing with mortgages and foreclosures of members of the military.

In November of last year, the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a hearing on "Robo-Signing, Chain of Title, Loss Mitigation, and Other Issues in Mortgage Servicing" to examine foreclosure practices of JPMorgan Chase and other banks. We support these efforts and believe that hearings on bank foreclosure practices should continue in the 112th Congress to ensure that we are protecting American families.

In that spirit, we believe a hearing on the mishandling of mortgages of active-duty military families, including an examination of whether the improper actions of JPMorgan Chase extend to other financial institutions as well, is critical. Improper actions on the part of banks and financial lenders like JPMorgan Chase, Ally Financial, and Bank of America are something that we have witnessed with increasing frequency with practices such as "robo-signing," signing foreclosure forms without even reading them, and even forging documents outright. Unfortunately, it seems that these financial institutions are trying to maintain their bottom line at the expense of American families. We therefore strongly urge you to use your oversight responsibilities to hold JPMorgan Chase and other institutions accountable for their practices.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON Member of Congress

TIMOTHY J. WALZ Member of Congress

STEVE ISRAEL Member of Congress

SHEILA JACKSON LEE Member of Congress

MARK S. CRITZ Member of Congress

JESSE L. JACKSON, JR. Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

EDWARD J. MARKEY Member of Congress

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BRAD MILLER Member of Congress

JOHN LEWIS Member of Congress BENNIE G. THOMPSON Member of Congress

Member of Congress

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Member of Congress